

captivity* (Zool. 1888, p. 176). A third example had been previously seen (about 1874) by the late Mr. J. Cordeaux in a game-shop at Grimsby (B. Humber District, p. 22).

In October 1871 an immature White-fronted Goose, with a very short beak, was bought in Leadenhall Market, which puzzled my father and me, but which I now think was *A. erythropus*; whether it was British-killed or not it is impossible to say. This was a young bird and the general tone of its plumage was distinctly dark, a feature noticed by the late Mr. Seebohm (P. Z. S. 1886, p. 420), but which I am afraid is not constant. It had no bars on the breast or belly, a fact which in all the White-fronted Geese has been regarded as a mark of immaturity, but I have known an example of *A. albifrons* to live about four years on a pond at Cromer without acquiring bars.

XVIII.—*Further Notes on the Birds of the Outer Hebrides.*

By J. A. HARVIE-BROWN, F.R.S.E.

MANY striking changes in the Avifauna of the Outer Hebrides have been brought to the notice of ornithologists since I visited the group along with Colonel Feilden in the year 1870, though whether some of these changes are not more apparent than real is a point which cannot at present be regarded with absolute certainty. Personally, however, I am of opinion that most of the new records are due to an extension of range of the species, whether on migration or otherwise, while it is an undoubted fact that certain birds are incomparably more plentiful than they were even in 1888, when the 'Fauna of the Outer Hebrides' issued from the press.

To these changes then I particularly desire to draw attention in this paper, now that a large mass of fresh information has been collected by personal investigations and by the aid of many kind correspondents; and I hope to publish in an early part of the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History' full details regarding the species concerned.

* Four or five examples of this Goose have lived in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London at different times.

Referring to the lists given below, it will be noticed that Thrushes and Warblers have either increased in numbers or else that our knowledge of their occurrences has become much more perfect. The increase in these cases may perhaps be explained by the planting of trees that has taken place in such districts as Barra. Very noticeable is the record of the Barred Warbler, and still more so that of the Subalpine Warbler, the latter being new to the British List. Not a single Tit has as yet been reported from the Outer Hebrides; on the other hand, we are able to announce the appearance of the Red-breasted Flycatcher, of the Greenland Redpoll, and of a second specimen of the Blue-throated Warbler. The Swallow, the Rook, and the Lesser Tern now breed within the group, and the numbers of Swans and Ducks are said to be greatly augmented. The occurrences of the Red-necked Phalarope vary considerably from year to year, but are probably neither increasing nor decreasing. The Chough, reported as extinct in the 'Fauna of the Outer Hebrides,' has again made its appearance, while we are beyond measure glad to learn that the Sea-Eagle has fairly held its own since 1888. The foreign wild-fowl, introduced upon Lord Dunmore's property at Rodel, seem to have entirely disappeared. The occurrence of a Corn-Crake in winter is remarkable.

The sources of my information have been many and various. Subsequently to a tour in 1870, when Colonel Feilden and I explored Harris, North Uist, Barra, and South Uist, not to mention the smaller islands, I returned to Newton in North Uist in 1879, and spent several weeks there before leaving for St. Kilda with Professor Heddle. The Shiant Islands, the Hysgeir group off N. Uist, the Flannen Islands, and N. Rona were visited between that year and 1885—all in the spring or early summer. In 1887, I began a series of trips in the yacht 'Shiantelle,' built at Fraserburgh, in the course of which I reached N. Rona, Souliskerry, Stack-&-Skerry (*sic*), and eventually Shetland; and I visited the Færoes in the yacht 'Daydream' in 1894. In consequence I have been able to add greatly to my store

of information, and to give most careful attention to the verification of the notes made in previous years. The schedules from the lighthouses which have passed through my hands on their way to Mr. Eagle Clarke for incorporation in the "Migration Reports" have been also a fruitful source of knowledge; while Mr. W. Macgillivray of Eoligary, Dr. John McRury of Barra, Mrs. Platt (tenant of the deer-forest of the Park), Mr. Andrew McElfrish of Loch Maddy, Messrs. A. and A. C. Chapman, with many other sportsmen and naturalists, have done me the greatest service in forwarding full accounts of their observations in the group. Many old friends among the proprietors and their factors have also been kind enough to further my investigations, which have extended almost up to the present time.

It only remains for me to mention the visits paid to the lonely Rockall in the North Atlantic in the s.s. 'Granuaille' in 1896*, when the following twenty species of birds were noticed:—*Sula bassana*, *Tringa alpina*, *Numenius phaeopus*, *Sterna minuta*, *Sterna* —?, *Larus fuscus*, *L. argentatus*, *L. canus*, *Rissa tridactyla*, *Stercorarius catarrhactes*, *S. pomatorhinus*, *S. parasiticus*, *S. crepidatus*, *Alca torda*, *Uria troile*, *Fratercula arctica*, *Fulmarus glacialis*, *Puffinus gravis*, *P. griseus*, and *Procellaria pelagica*.

I. List of Species new to the Outer Hebrides since 1888.

NAME.	LOCALITY.
Barred-Warbler (<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>)	Barra.
Subalpine Warbler (<i>S. subalpina</i>)	St. Kilda.
Wood-Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>)	North Uist.
Sedge-Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus phragmitis</i>)	Barra.
Great Grey Shrike (<i>Lanius excubitor</i>)	Barra.
Waxwing (<i>Ampelis garrula</i>)	Stornoway.
Red-breasted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa parva</i>)	Monach Isles Lighthouse.
Siskin (<i>Chrysomitris spinus</i>)	Barra.
Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis elegans</i>)	North Uist and ? Mingulay.
Greenland Redpoll (<i>Linota rostrata</i>)	Barra (3 specimens).
Crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	Barra.
Carrion-Crow (<i>Corvus corone</i>)	N. Uist (<i>McElfrish</i>) (first shot).

* Trans. Roy. Irish Acad. xxxi. pt. iii. pp. 66-75, pls. ix.-xi.

NAME.	LOCALITY.
Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europæus</i>)	Eilan Ghlaiss Lighthouse, Harris.
Night-Heron (<i>Nycticorax griseus</i>)	Benbecula.
Green Sandpiper (<i>Totanus ochropus</i>)	S. Uist.
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa belgica</i>)	Benbecula and S. Uist.
Lesser Tern (<i>Sterna minuta</i>)	Barra.
Ivory-Gull (<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>)	Stornoway.
Great Skua (<i>Megalestris catarrhactes</i>)	Harris and Barra.

II. List of Birds which are bracketed as doubtful in the 'Fauna of the Outer Hebrides,' and from which the brackets may now be removed.

Lesser Whitethroat (<i>Sylvia curruca</i>)	Barra.
Garden-Warbler (<i>S. hortensis</i>)	Barra.
Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus rufus</i>)	Barra.
Lesser Redpoll (<i>Linota rufescens</i>)	Barra.
Long-eared Owl (<i>Asio otus</i>)	N. Uist and Barra.
Bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>)	Harris.
Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	S. Uist and Barra.
Shoveller (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)	Benbecula.
Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	The Lews.
Turtle-Dove (<i>Columba turtur</i>)	Several islands.
Grey Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>)	Barra and Loch Maddy.

XIX.—On the Birds of the Gold Coast Colony and its Hinterland. By Capt. BOYD ALEXANDER.

(Plate VII.)

ON the morning of June 1st, 1900, I landed at Cape Coast, and, as a Haussa officer, found myself attached to the Kumassi Relief-Column. The Ashanti rebellion was in full swing. Sinister rumours regarding the fate of Kumassi were rife. The town, being full to overflowing, presented an animated spectacle: traders from up-country, who had barely escaped with their lives, and natives with wild looks in their eyes frequented the streets; while by each mail-boat troops, war-like stores, and hundreds of carriers kept pouring in. Throughout June the troops were concentrated at Prahsu, and preparations were made for the general advance to Kumassi. The military operations gave me little time and opportunity to carry out my scientific work, but